

ULTIMATE SIX™

ISSUE

1



ULTIMATE
SPIDER-MAN®
AND

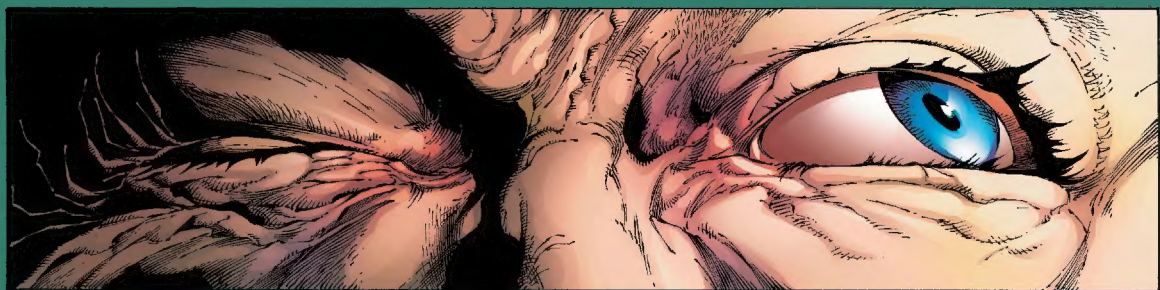
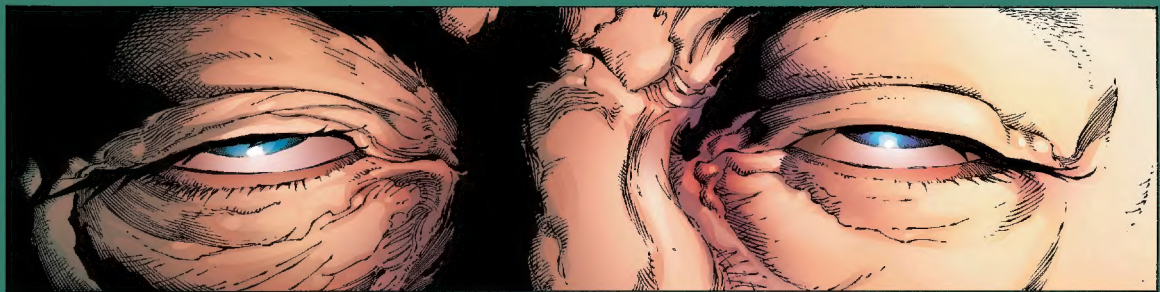
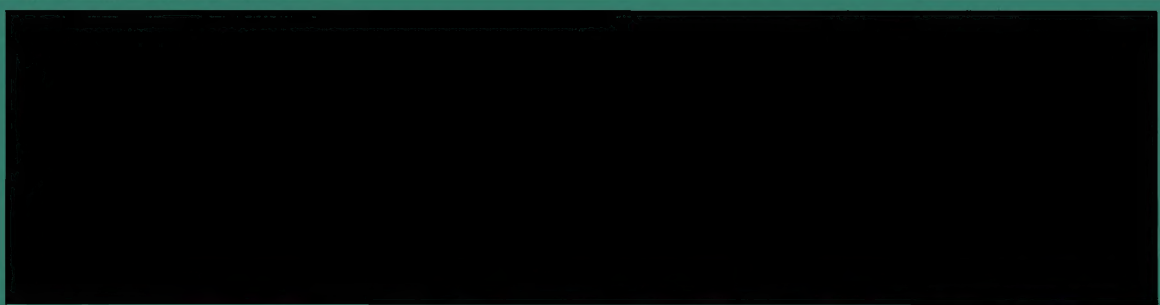
THE
ULTIMATES™

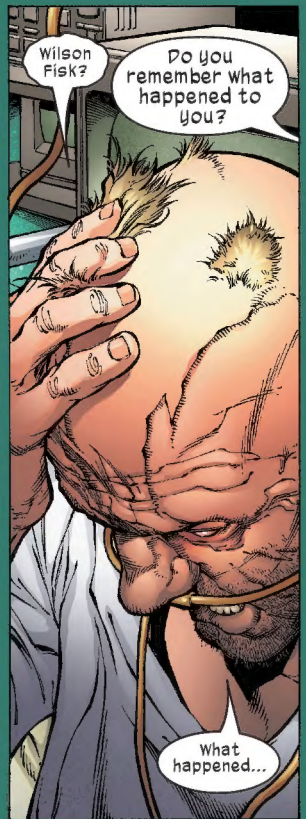
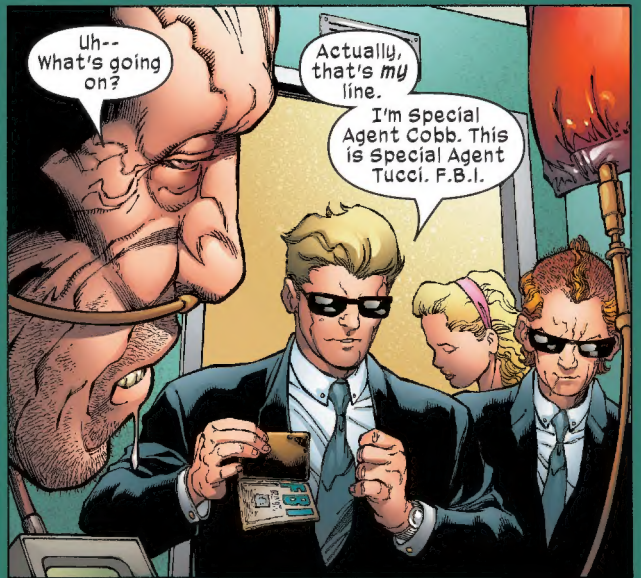
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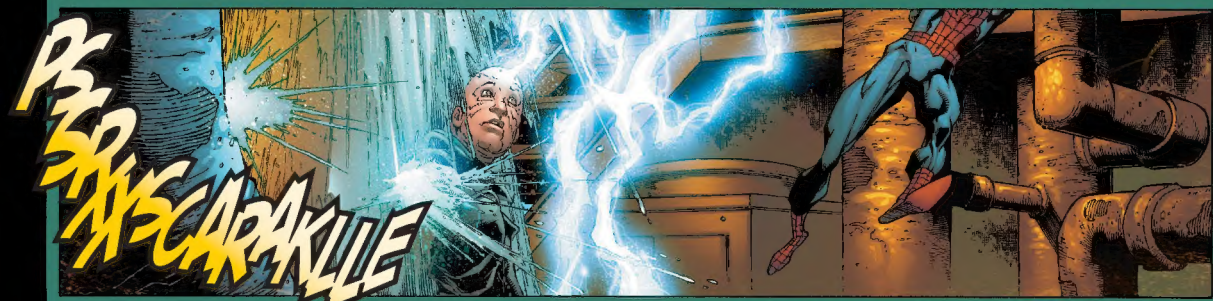
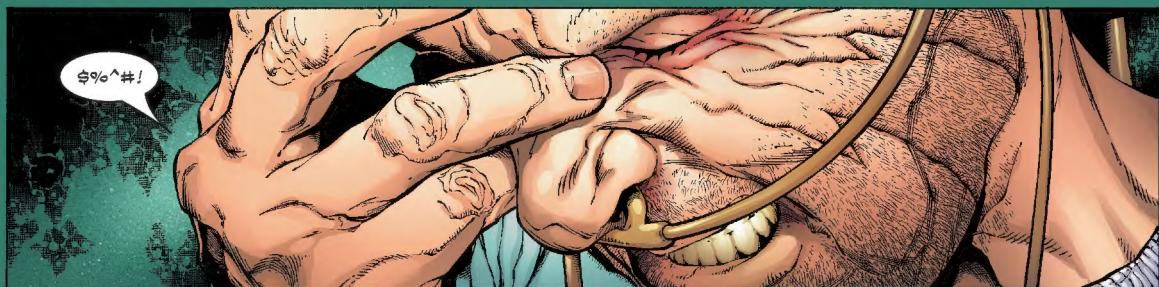
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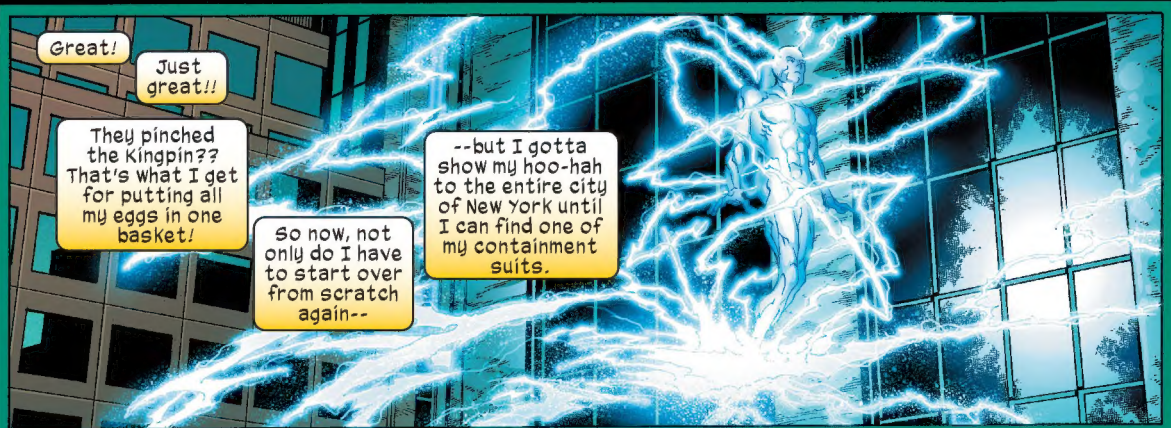
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Great!

Just great!!

They pinched the Kingpin?? That's what I get for putting all my eggs in one basket!

So now, not only do I have to start over from scratch again--

--but I gotta show my hoo-hah to the entire city of New York until I can find one of my containment suits.



Kingpin took the fall.

Never in a million billion would I imagine that kid in the spider tights would'a done it.

I gotta look into this.

Now I gotta find a gig. I need some quick cash.

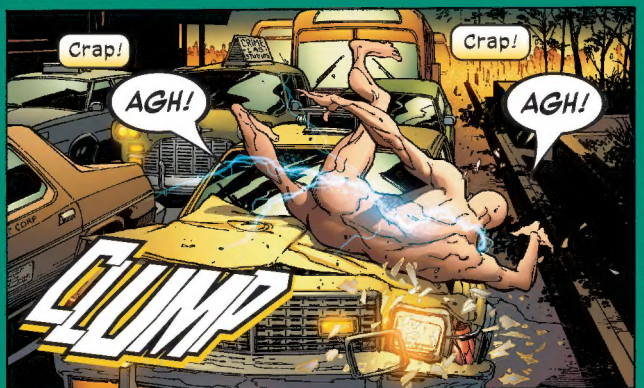
Maybe hit a couple of jobs and then maybe lay low until I can figure out what's what--



Can't believe I let that punk kid Spider-Man get one up on me!

I swear to God, I'm going to find out who that little pisher is and I'm going to-- Aagghh...

AAGGH!

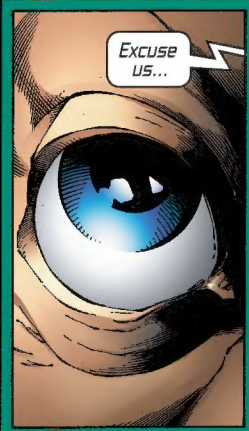
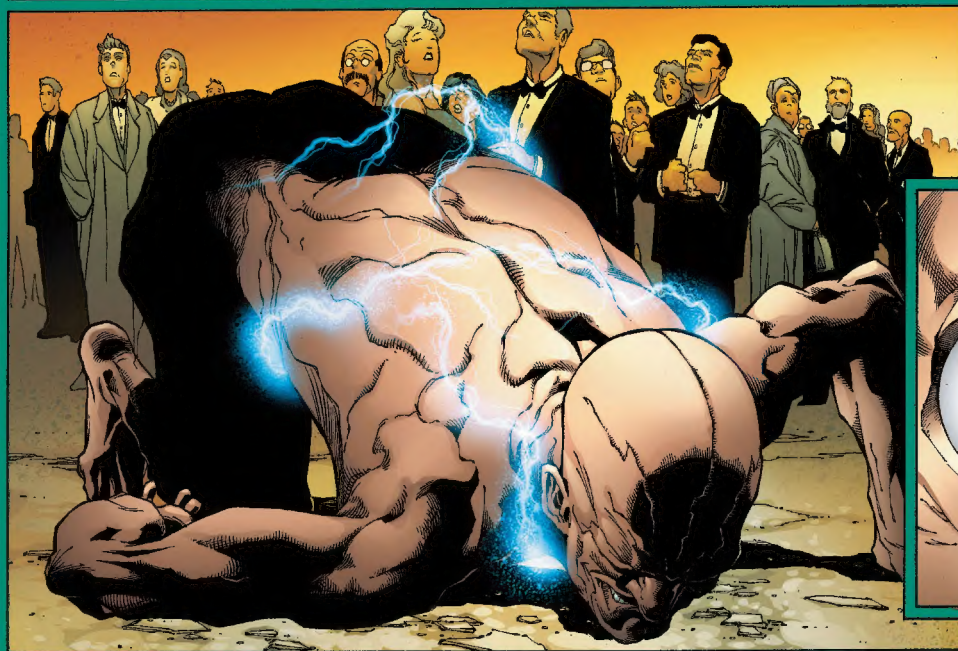


Crap!

AGH!

Crap!

AGH!

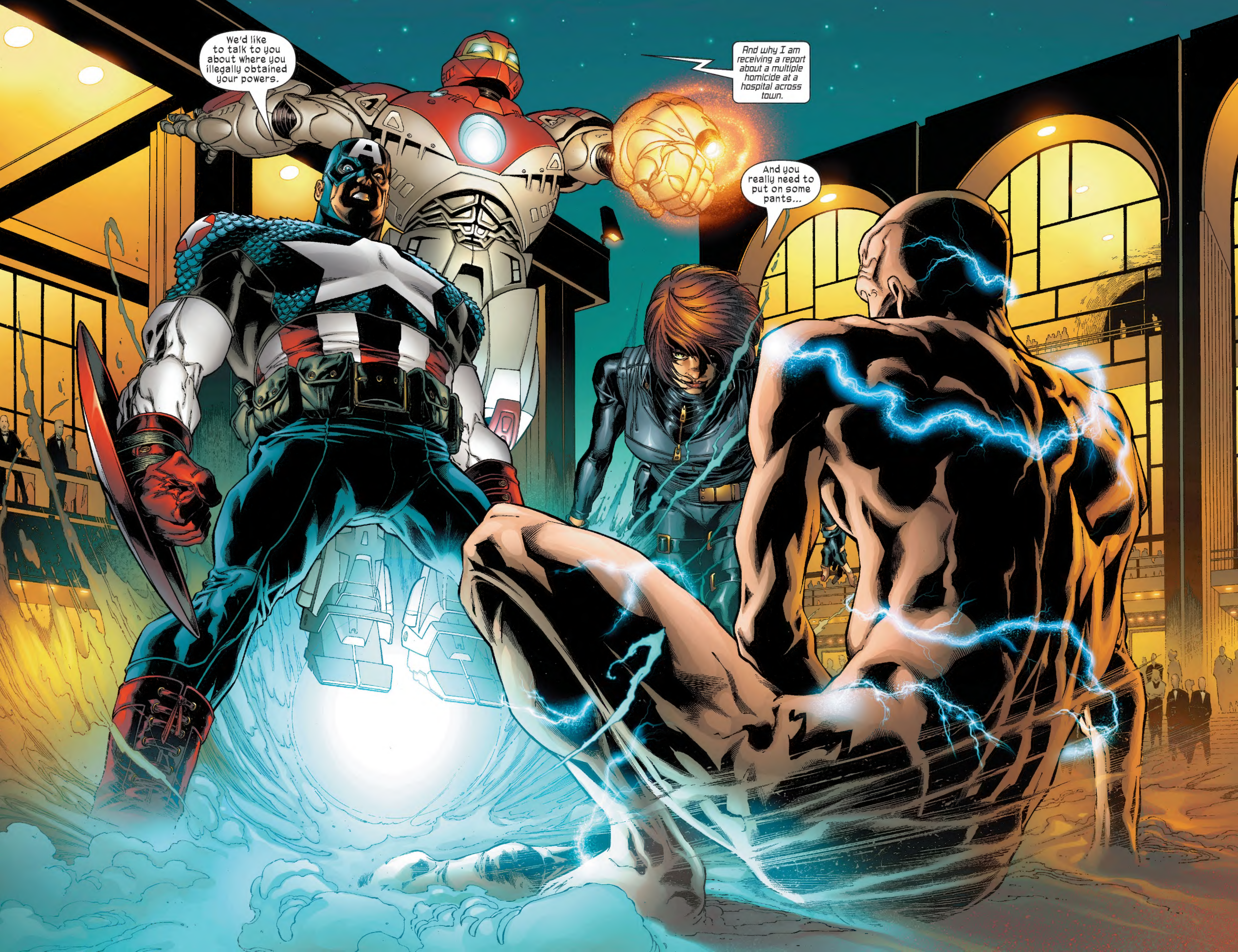


Excuse us...

We'd like
to talk to you
about where you
illegally obtained
your powers.

And why I am
receiving a report
about a multiple
homicide at a
hospital across
town.

And you
really need to
put on some
pants...



Peter Parker
Spider-Man



Steve Rogers
Captain America



Henry Pym
Giant Man



Tony Stark
Iron Man



Janet Pym
Wasp



Thor
Thor



Clint Barton
Hawkeye



Natasha Romanov
Black Widow



Otto Octavius
Doctor Octopus



Max Dillon
Electro



Flint Marko
Sandman



Norman Osborn
Green Goblin



The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high-school student Peter Parker incredible, arachnid-like powers: strength, agility, a spider-like sixth sense warning him of personal danger, and most amazing of all-- Peter can walk on walls. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power there must also come great responsibility!

Captain America, Iron Man, The Wasp, Thor, Hawkeye, The Black Widow, and Giant Man are THE ULTIMATES!! Brought together by the espionage agency known as S.H.I.E.L.D., The Ultimates serve as a super hero defense initiative protecting the world from whatever threatens to destroy it!

PREVIOUSLY IN THE ULTIMATE UNIVERSE

Electro is the fourth addition to S.H.I.E.L.D.'s high security holding facility for illegal genetic mutations. There he joins Dr. Otto Octavius a.k.a. Doctor Octopus, Flint Marko a.k.a. Sandman, and Norman Osborn a.k.a. The Green Goblin--who all have a bad history with Spider-Man.

The most sordid history is that of Norman Osborn. Wanting to repeat the process that turned Peter Parker into Spider-Man, Norman injected himself with his Oz formula. As the Oz took effect, turning him into The Green Goblin, he destroyed his lab (an accident that also fused Octavius with his metal arms). Since that accident, Osborn had started injecting himself with the Oz formula, which is slowly driving him insane. Spider-Man stopped Norman's rampages twice, leading him to obsess over Peter.



S t a n l e e p r e s e n t s :

ULTIMATE SIX

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Would you like to go first today? Is there something you'd like to share?

This is-- this is hard to admit.

(And I can't believe I'm saying it.)

But... I miss my arms.



As you know...

When I found that my metal arms had grafted to my neurological system during "the accident"...

...well, I started my-- my shameful, violent, downward spiral.

But now that they are gone-- successfully removed--

--I do-- I feel empty. I feel like something is missing.

And isn't that odd?

Isn't that -- I don't know-- unnatural?



I've thought a lot about what we talked about last week.

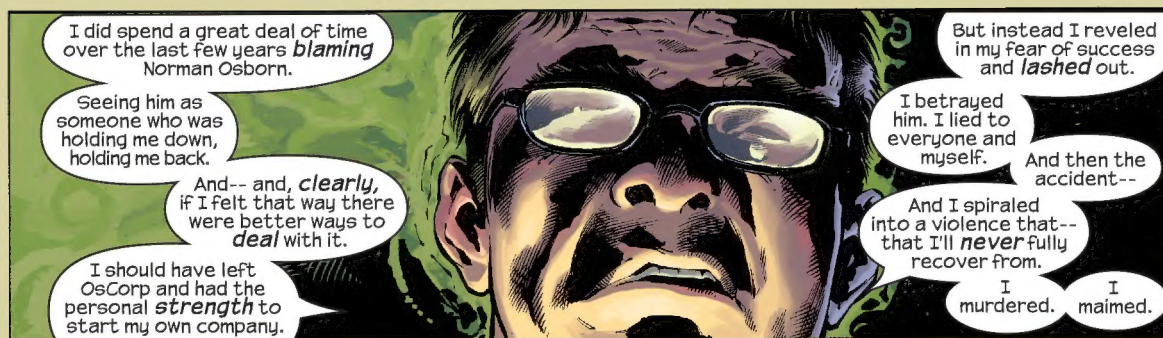
And yes, I-- I do think a lot of my downward spiral started because I refused to take *responsibility* for my own actions.

I think a lot of my problems stem from that.

And I'm-- this goes way before any craziness with Osborn Industries.

It's what ended my first marriage...

(Even though I married too young, but that's another subject.)



I did spend a great deal of time over the last few years *blaming* Norman Osborn.

Seeing him as someone who was holding me down, holding me back.

And-- and, *clearly*, if I felt that way there were better ways to *deal* with it.

I should have left OsCorp and had the personal *strength* to start my own company.

But instead I reveled in my fear of success and *lashed out*.

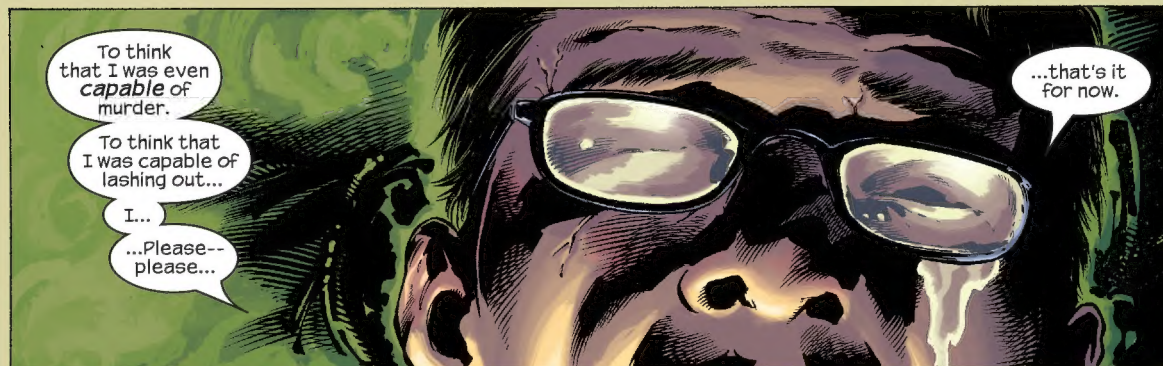
I betrayed him. I lied to everyone and myself.

And then the accident--

And I spiraled into a violence that-- that I'll *never* fully recover from.

I murdered.

I maimed.



To think that I was even *capable* of murder.

To think that I was capable of *lashing out*...

I...

...Please-- please...

...that's it for now.



I want to make it perfectly clear.

I'm not giving you \$%^&#!

Okay?

Not going to happen.



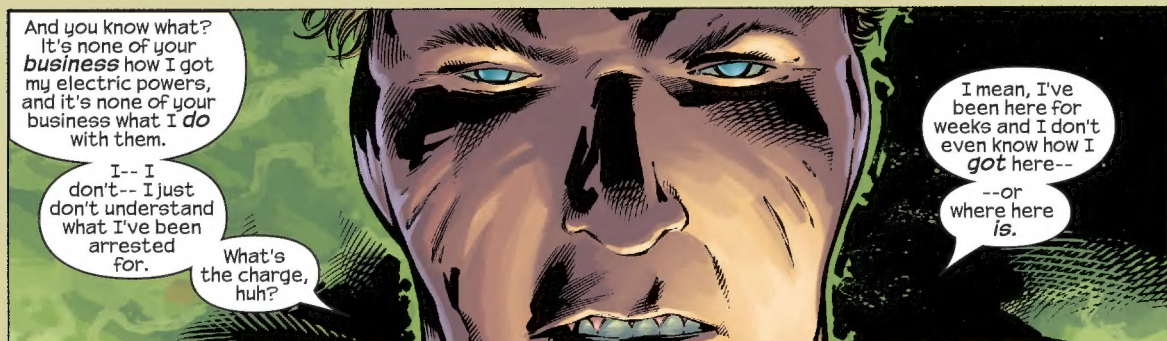
I've been thinking about what this is all about and-- and--

--I don't know what you *think* my relationship with the Kingpin is, or was, but it's all hearsay. Okay?

You don't got no proof.

And I don't know what kind of new age-y F.B.I. sweatbox you got cooked up here... but I ain't talkin'.

Okay? You get me?



And you know what? It's none of your *business* how I got my electric powers, and it's none of your business what I *do* with them.

I-- I don't-- I just don't understand what I've been arrested for.

What's the charge, huh?

I mean, I've been here for weeks and I don't even know how I *got* here--

--or where here *is*.



I didn't even get a *phone* call.

I got a mom and I had a chick and no one knows where I am, man.

And I don't understand how you can just *do* that.

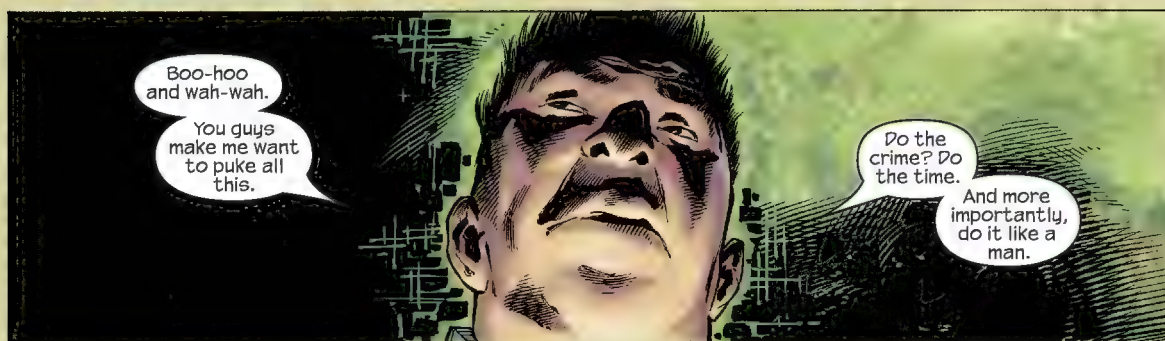
What am I doing in here? For what?

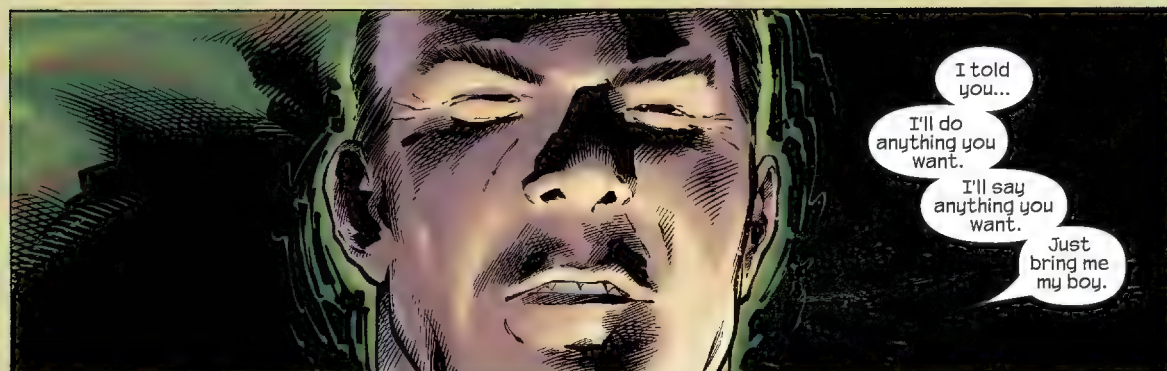
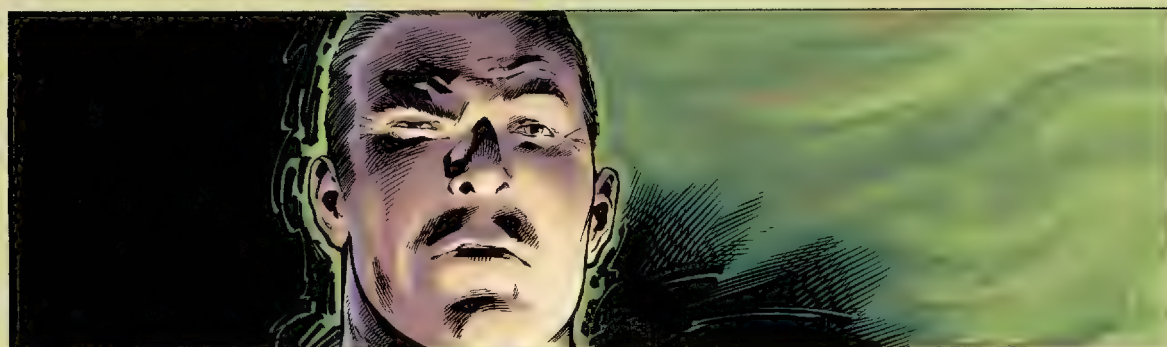
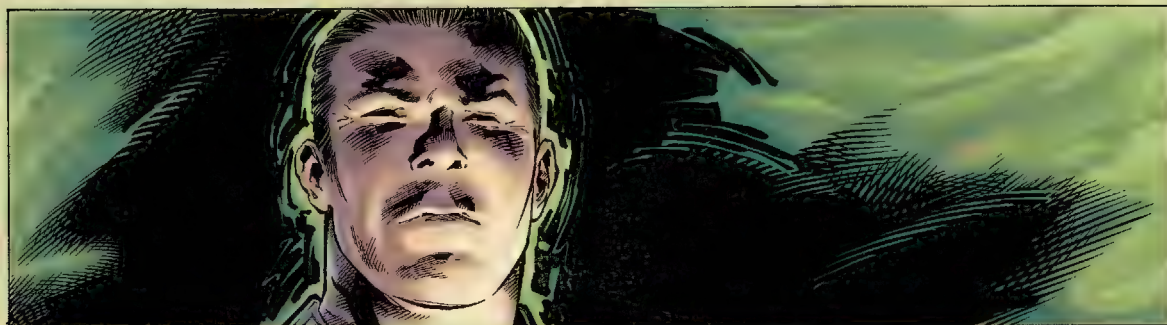


Plus, I'd really like to shave my head.

They let you shave at Ryker's.

(I mean, look at me.)







You know I can't do that, Norman.

You're like a broken record, man.

Actually, I do have a question.

These collars we wear...

These are an advanced model of the Richards gene nullifier they used to collar the Hulk in Utah that time, correct?

They are standard issue S.H.I.E.L.D., prison--

I can understand why *some* of the group here would be fit with collars like these.

But Otto and I-- you took Otto's arms from him. Why is *he* wearing a collar?

Why am I?

I needed to inject myself with Oz to express my true nature.

Without the Oz compound I am just a regular homo sapien... with a great deal of money.

You people know that.

So why am I wearing this collar?

Am I to believe that *you* believe I can turn myself into something more at will?

Is there something about my genetic condition that you are not telling me?

I ask again. Why am I wearing this collar?

'Cause I said so.



And the great Nick Fury finally has the courage to show his face to me.

Courage ain't nothin' but it.

You, Mr. Osborn, have been, and *always* will be, very *low* on my list of priorities.



Where am I, Fury?

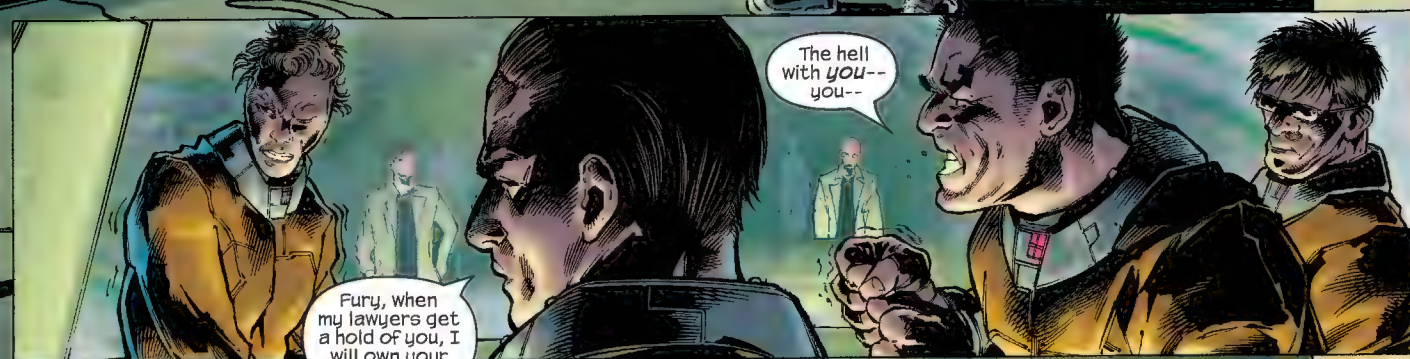
What is this?



Exactly what you have been told it was. This is a secured S.H.I.E.L.D. compound.

You are a permanent guest of the United States government.

You are being detained as an illegal, unnatural, genetic mutation.



Fury, when my lawyers get a hold of you, I will own your eyepatch!

The hell with *you*-- you--

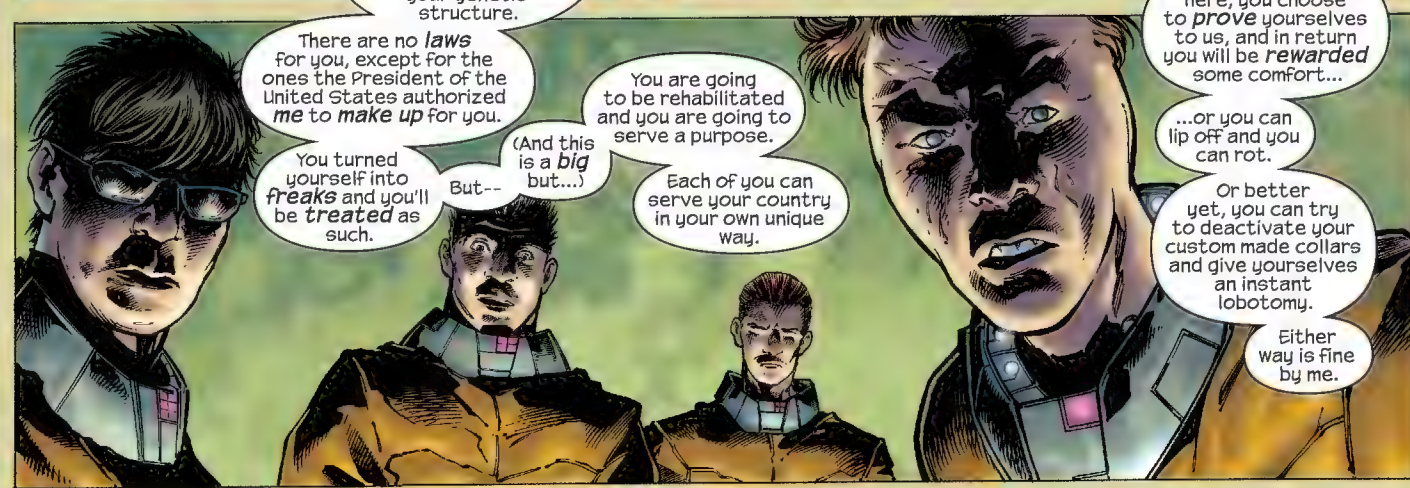


You are breaking so many laws--

What we want from you--

Laws? What laws?

You gave up your participation in society the second you-- *any* of you-- purposely and *maliciously* altered your genetic structure.



There are no *laws* for you, except for the ones the President of the United States authorized *me* to *make up* for you.

You turned yourself into *freaks* and you'll be *treated* as such.

But--

(And this is a *big* but...)

You are going to be rehabilitated and you are going to serve a purpose.

Each of you can serve your country in your own unique way.

You cooperate here, you choose to *prove* yourselves to us, and in return you will be *rewarded* some comfort...

...or you can lip off and you can rot.

Or better yet, you can try to deactivate your custom made collars and give yourselves an instant lobotomy.

Either way is fine by me.

(Personally, I'm *hoping* for the latter.)

But these being times of peace and all that-- I am going to rise above my *personal* disgust for you and *give* you this shot at semi-rehabilitation.

So we're clear-- so you know where you stand.

The only person that gives a rat's anything about this part of the project is Doctor Pym here.

He wants to help you help yourselves.

That's fine.

But everyone else in this facility is a fully trained, fully armed, card-carrying agent of S.H.I.E.L.D....

And each is *very* aware that both you and Doctor Octopus over here murdered several S.H.I.E.L.D. agents in your day.

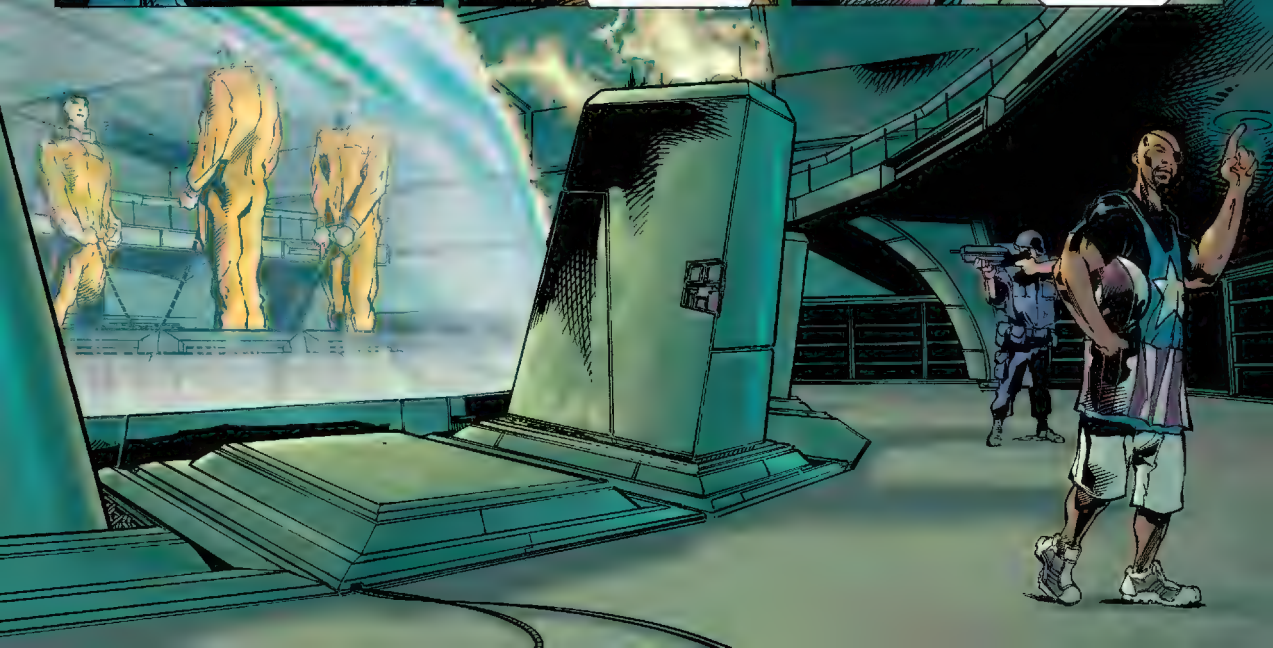
The only thing keeping them from Bonnie and Clydeing you...

...is me.

How-- um-- how are we supposed to cooperate?

What exactly do you want from us?

You're a smart man, Doctor...





"And this is the footage of the last public appearance of TV personality Kraven the Hunter.

"Kraven the great game hunter...

"...and host and star of his wildly successful reality show...



"...had *shocked* the entertainment industry by declaring the mysterious *Spider-Man* his next elusive prey.



"It was in front of the gathered media that Kraven the Hunter *confronted* Spider-Man face-to-face.



"It was a meeting that did not go well."



Huh.
I thought he had super powers or something.

Showbiz phony.



And in our studio, live, a very rare *sit-down* with the widely publicized "*new and improved*" Kraven the Hunter.

Kraven, I am *so* glad to speak with you.

And may I say, you look wonderful.

Kraven...
The public defeat...
The arrest for public endangerment...
The deportation...
The cancellation of your show...
How is Kraven doing now?

Well, Mary, Saturday night, on pay-per-view...
...people, fans of my syndicated show, are going to see something they have been waiting for for months...

Not only will they see how I trained for the new hunt...

They are going to see the hunt itself.

But why this Spider-Man? What's the obsession with Spider-Man?

Uh...
Yes, well, yes.

Invigorated.
Though I would not refer to the conflict with Spider-Man, as you said, as a defeat.
It was just... ill-conceived, yes?

The hunt... of the Spider-Man.
And then *live*, live on pay-per-view, they are going to see me defeat Spider-Man in a truly spectacular display of hand-to-hand--

But what went wrong the first time?

Why did this turn out so badly for you?

He-- it is the most elusive prey.
But he is also a murderer and a fool. He is a criminal-- by any definition.

This hunt personifies all that is--

And what of the rumors, the internet rumors, that say you have undergone some sort of genetic treatment...

Some sort of *enhancements* to--

We will have all the highlights from the spectacular event, right here, Monday.

Well, we've seen the billboards *all over town*...
We hear the rumors... the "*new and improved*" Kraven the Hunter.
You've renewed your challenge against this mysterious Spider-Man.
What's it all about? Why Spider-Man?

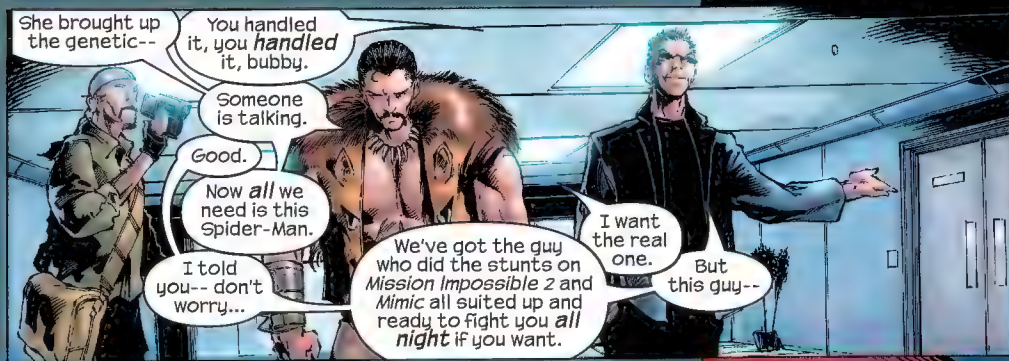
I had some, as you say, personal issues-- some things going on in my personal life.

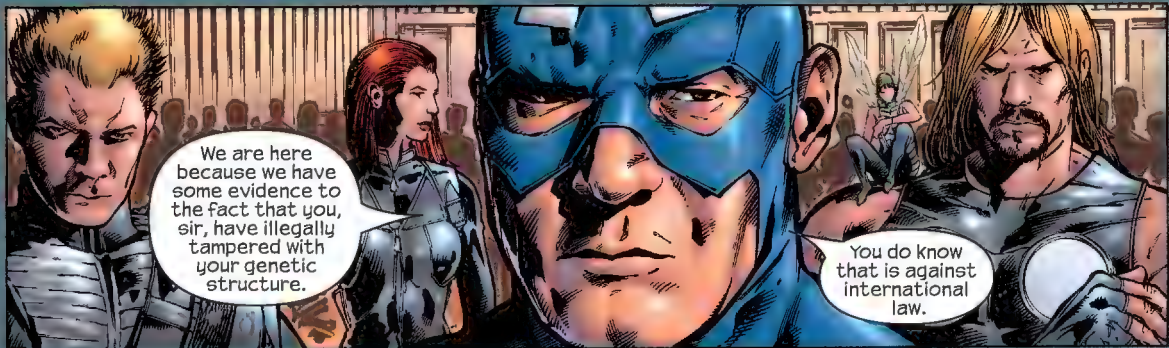
I just wasn't as ready as I should have been to face him and I jumped the gun.

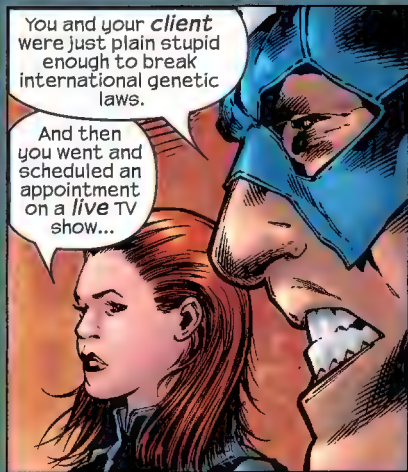
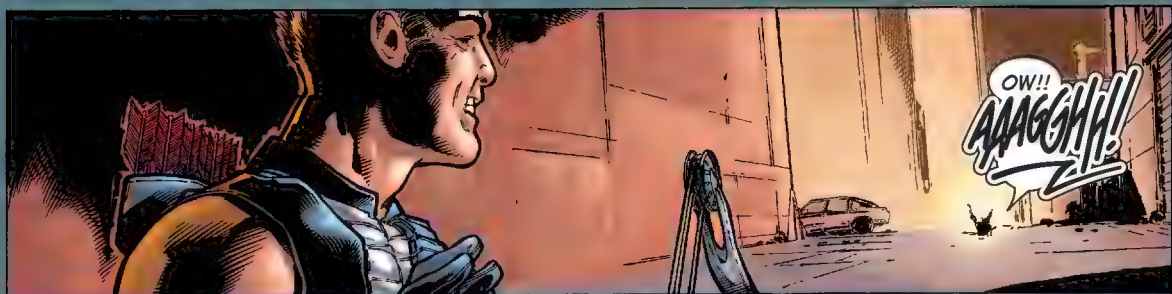
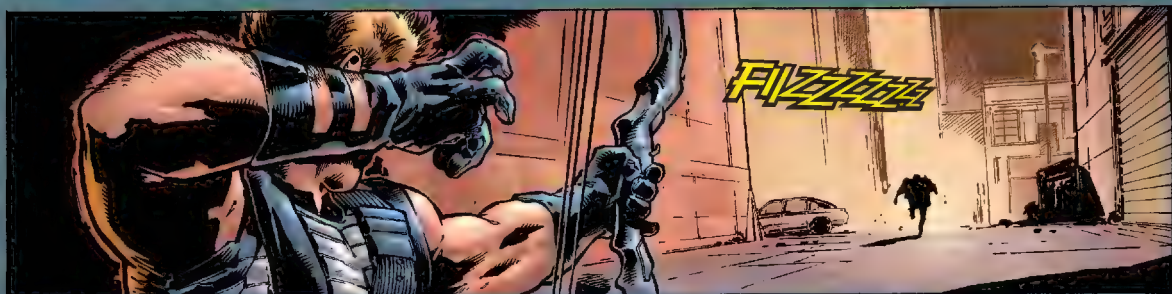
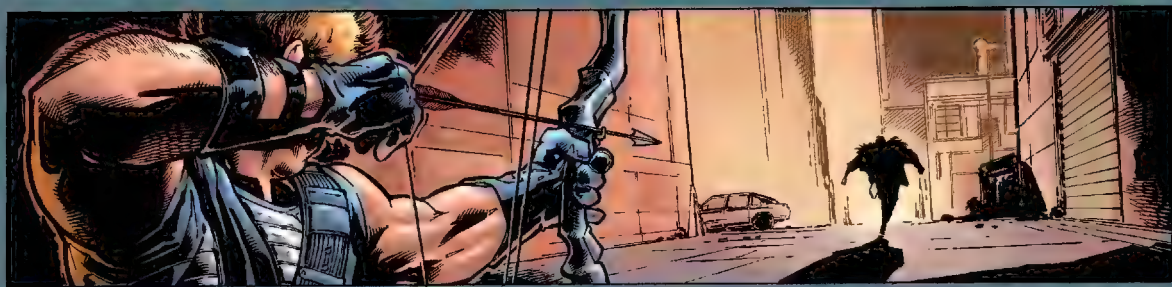
In the jungle that I make my home, we seem to do well *without* this internet.

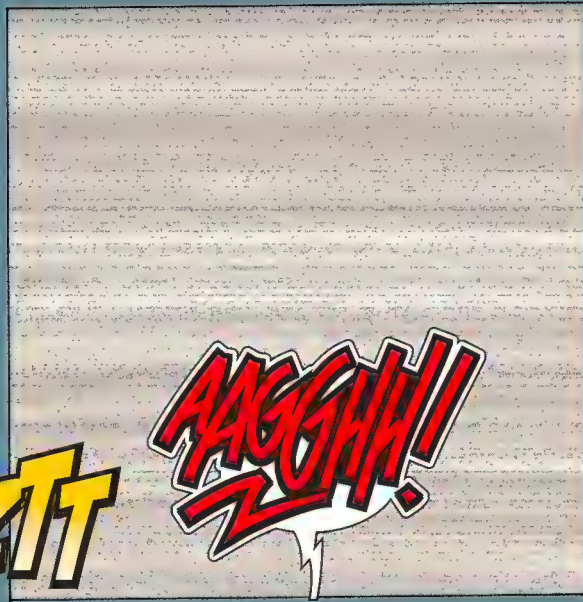
I am a man of the earth. A man of the jungle. A man of the hunt.

Thank you so, so much.













AAARRGGHHH AAARRGGHHH!!



Ooohh...

As I was saying your collar will forcefully stabilize your genetic sequences.

And as you can see, that isn't a pleasant experience.

The collar is programmed to increase strength to match whatever attempt *you* make at using your powers.

It *will* fry your brain to cheap store-bought tapioca before you even know what happened.



Ooohh, God...



Hey, hey, are you going to that seminar?

Are you?

Thinking about it.

If you don't go Fury will--

Ooohh...

Open 769!

